

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.
Claims 1-63 are currently pending in this application.

Specification

The disclosure has been objected to because of an informality in the Brief Description of the Drawings. In particular, the Examiner stated that the *Brief Description of the Drawings* did not contain a description of Figure 4A.

Response to Informality in the Specification

Applicant respectfully submits that the *Brief Description of the Drawings* does include a description of said figure (see page 13, paragraph [0038]). Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In addition, the Applicant has corrected typographical errors found in the Specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 15-18, 40-52, and 58-63 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner believes that the limitation "said input" in lines 1, 2, and 1 of claims 15, 40, and 58, respectively, has insufficient antecedent basis.

Response to 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections

Claims 15, 40, and 58 have been amended to replace the limitation "said input" with "an input". Dependent claims 16, 41 and 59 have likewise been amended to make them consistent with their respective amended independent claims. The Applicant respectfully

asserts that, with the aforementioned amendments, claims 15-18, 40-52, and 58-63 now clearly specify the subject matter of the invention. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection based on insufficient antecedent basis be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 10, 11, 14-18, 28, 37, 39-43, 53, and 57-60 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Guedalia (U.S. Patent No. 6,536,043, hereinafter the '043 patent).

Response to 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejections

The Examiner pointed out a number of apparent similarities in language, technique and scope between the present invention and the '043 patent, as noted in the Office Action's reference to a number of sections of the '043 patent. The Applicant respectfully argues that the '043 patent and the present invention teach different techniques and apply to different problems. The Applicant will address the apparent similarities in language, technique and scope, in turn.

The Examiner noted the use of the term block in both the present invention and the '043 patent. However, the term block is employed to signify different data sets in each. For certain embodiments in the present specification, the term block is used to signify a limited set of spatially-related frames. As described on page 27 of the Specification:

"Frames in each of the blocks represent particular regions of the object and the blocks are arranged such that they are proximately associated with each other".

By contrast, in the '043 patent a data block is an entire version of a movie or still image at a given resolution (or bandwidth). The first block contains the lowest resolution version of the movie, the last block contains the highest resolution version. Thus, each

block contains frames spanning the entire length of a movie, not just “particular regions of the object” as in certain embodiments in the present specification. As described on Column 4, lines 38-43:

“data blocks of roughly equal size to deliver the media for on-line playback at a selected range of bandwidths, and in such a way that the higher bandwidth versions are built by integrating data blocks with the lower bandwidth versions.”

In regards to technique and scope, certain embodiments of the present specification teach a technique for optimal multi-directional compression/decompression which is useful for object movies and interactive random access by the user to the different object views. The technique describes rules for creating compression paths by starting at a chosen key frame and sweeping across frames in a block or preferred layout and in multiple directions. As described on page 19, paragraph 0063:

“After the key frame is selected, compression paths are determined. Compression paths are the paths that show how each frame of the object movie can be compressed and eventually decompressed for user access.”

And page 20, paragraph 0064:

“Because of the multi-directional sweeping in the compression method, the random access to any of the frames in the movie is easy, quick and convenient.”

The ‘043 patent does not teach a technique to create multi-directional compression paths for the random access of object movie frames. Instead, the ‘043 patent teaches a technique to progressively increase the resolution of an image or movie by adapting the amount of data that is transmitted at any given time to match the bandwidth capabilities of the user receiving the data. That is, a scalable, progressive method to transmit data. As described in column 3, lines 51-55:

“The present invention seeks to provide a scalable representation of multimedia data, enabling the data to be (a) progressively streamed (b) transmitted asynchronously to clients at different bandwidths and (c) played back interactively on-line.”

Applicant will now illustrate how the claims are not anticipated by the ‘043 patent. Claim 1 requires, inter alia, “dividing said preferred layout into a plurality of blocks having frames sharing spatial similarities and compressing each of said plurality of blocks separately” where the preferred layout is an arrangement of a plurality of frames which represent a set of views of an object. The ‘043 patent does not teach this technique. As noted above, in the ‘043 patent, each block contains an entire version of a movie or still image, and each block is distinguished from other blocks on resolution (e.g. higher or lower resolution), not spatial similarities. Furthermore, the blocks in the ‘043 patent are not divided in a layout which is an arrangement of a plurality of frames which represent a set of views of an object. In effect, in the ‘043 patent, a higher resolution block “fills in the blanks” left by a lower resolution block for the same image or sequence of images. There is no reason in the ‘043 patent to divide the blocks into an arrangement of a plurality of frames which represent a set of views of an object. Thus, claim 1 is not anticipated by the ‘043 patent.

Claim 14 requires, inter alia, “receiving said data set wherein said frames were arranged in a preferred layout, said preferred layout was divided into a plurality of blocks wherein each of the said plurality of blocks was compressed separately” and wherein the data set include frames of an object and the frames represent views of the object. The blocks in the ‘043 patent are not divided in a layout which is an arrangement of a plurality of frames which represent views of an object. In the ‘043 patent, a higher resolution block “fills in the blanks” left by a lower resolution block for the same image or sequence of images. There is no reason in the ‘043 patent to divide the blocks into an arrangement of a

plurality of frames which represent views of an object. Thus, claim 14 is not anticipated by the '043 patent.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1,10,11,14-18 are all allowable over the teachings of the '043 patent. Applicant states that the same reasons apply to claims 28, 37, 39-43 and claims 53, 57-60. Applicant therefore submits that all claims rejected under §102(e) are in condition of allowance.

Claim Objections

Claims 2-9, 12-13, 19-27, 29-36, 38, 44-52, 54-56, and 61-63 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Claim Objections

Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the allowable subject matter in claims 2-9, 12-13, 19-27, 29-36, 38, 44-52, 54-56, and 61-63. Applicant has not rewritten these claims in independent form as the patentability of the base claim is being argued.

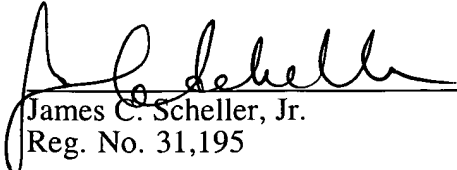
In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No.
02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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